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Louisiana Field Office
5825 Florida Blvd., PO Box 65038
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896
(225) 922-1362

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

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Louisiana Meat Animal Summary
Average Prices Received by Farmers

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during March totaled 0.8 million pounds, unchanged from the previous month but 38 percent below the previous year.

There were 700 head of **cattle** slaughtered during March, the same as the previous month but 700 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 805 pounds, down 64 pounds from the previous month and 91 pounds below March 2005. Total live weight, at 550,000 pounds, was 15 percent below the previous month and 56 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during March totaled 400 head, up 100 head from February and the previous year. Live weight averaged 494 pounds, down 12 pounds from February and 8 pounds below March 2005. Total live weight, at 202,000 pounds, was up 15 percent from February and 17 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during March totaled 1,900 head, up 200 head from the previous month but down 600 head from the previous year. Average live weight was 210 pounds, up 4 pounds from February and 1 pound above the previous year. Total live weight was 396,000 pounds, 13 percent above February but 24 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during March was 200 head, unchanged from the previous month and the same as the previous year. Live weight averaged 105 pounds, down 17 pounds from the previous month but 1 pound above the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.11 billion pounds in March, up 6 percent from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in March 2005.

March 2006 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays. March 2005 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.21 billion pounds, was 8 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.85 million head, up 5 percent from March 2005. The average live weight was up 36 pounds from the previous year, at 1,273 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.3 million pounds, slightly above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 59,200 head, down 13 percent from March 2005. The average live weight was 42 pounds above last year, at 370 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.23 million head, 3 percent above March 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.2 million pounds, was down 6 percent from March 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 249,700 head, 11 percent below last year. The average live weight was 145 pounds, up 6 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2006 commercial red meat production was 11.5 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year; veal was down 3 percent; pork was up 4 percent from last year and lamb and mutton production was up slightly.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	February	March		January - March		March		January - March	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
-----Number, thousand head-----									
Cattle	0.7	1.4	0.7	3.8	2.0	2,725.1	2,852.4	7,596.1	7,840.1
Calves	0.3	0.3	0.4	1.2	1.0	68.0	59.2	197.5	167.9
Hogs	1.7	2.5	1.9	6.2	4.9	8,949.7	9,234.1	25,537.8	26,204.6
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.5	280.1	249.7	703.7	675.9
-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----									
Cattle	644	1,25	550	3,313	1,659	3,369,749	3,630,357	9,496,196	10,025,58
Calves	175	173	202	621	539	22,300	21,886	64,824	61,541
Hogs	349	519	396	1,275	1,025	2,423,674	2,510,925	6,901,430	7,136,972
Sheep & Lambs	27	22	18	67	52	38,819	36,327	97,572	97,907
-----Average live weight, pounds-----									
Cattle	869	896	805	872	830	1,237	1,273	1,250	1,279
Calves	506	502	494	518	539	328	370	328	367
Hogs	206	209	210	206	209	271	272	270	272
Sheep & Lambs	122	104	105	112	104	139	145	139	145
-----Million pounds-----									
Red Meat	0.8	1.3	0.8	3.4	2.2	3,878.1	4,111.7	10,949.9	11,486.0

Louisiana Meat Animal Income Up

Cash receipts from meat animals in Louisiana during 2005 totaled \$238.3 million, up 14 percent from the previous year. Cattle and calves made up 99 percent of these receipts, while hogs and pigs account for 1 percent.

Cattle and Calves: Cash receipts from cattle and calves totaled \$235.8 million, up 15 percent from 2004. Marketings, at 251.6 million pounds, were 8 percent above the 2004 figure. Cattle prices averaged \$67.20 per cwt, up \$3.50 from 2004, while calves averaged \$123.00 per cwt, \$10.00 above the previous year.

Hogs and Pigs: The 2005 cash receipts for hogs and pigs totaled \$2.58 million, down 16 percent from 2004. Marketings decreased to 5.93 million pounds, a 15 percent drop from the previous year. The average price received was \$43.60 per cwt, down \$0.50 from 2004.

Cattle and Calves: Production and Income

Year	Production ¹	Marketings ²	Average Price Per 100 pounds		Value of Production	Cash Receipts ³	Value of Home Consumption	Gross Income
			Cattle	Calves				
	-----Thousand pounds-----		-----Dollars-----		-----Thousand dollars-----			
2002	236,853	231,020	49.00	88.00	160,466	157,153	861	158,014
2003	243,459	244,950	53.20	93.00	175,945	178,288	924	179,212
2004	237,631	233,850	63.70	113.00	209,118	205,490	1,100	206,590
2005	224,034	251,560	67.20	123.00	215,953	235,763	1,197	236,960

Hogs and Pigs: Production and Income

Year	Production ¹	Marketings ²	Average Price Per 100 Pounds	Value of Production ⁴	Cash Receipts ^{3, 4}	Value of Home Consumption	Gross Income
	-----Thousand pounds-----		-----Dollars-----	-----Thousand dollars-----			
2002	7,232	7,790	26.20	1,872	2,041	53	2,094
2003	6,930	6,888	31.40	2,166	2,163	63	2,226
2004	6,473	6,950	44.10	2,852	3,065	87	3,152
2005	5,886	5,925	43.60	2,562	2,583	81	2,664

¹ Adjustments made for changes in inventory and for inshipments.

² Excludes custom slaughter for use on farms where produced and interfarm sales within the state.

³ Receipts from marketings and sale of farm slaughter.

⁴ Includes allowance for higher average price of state inshipment and outshipment of feeder pigs.

April Farm Prices Received Index Increased 1 Point From Previous Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 115, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1 point from March. The Crop Index is up 11 points but the Livestock Index decreased 6 points. Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, tomatoes, onions and strawberries. Lower prices were received for broilers, cattle, eggs and hogs. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of strawberries, cattle, sweet corn, and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat and hogs.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 6 points from April 2005. The Food commodities Index, at 117, increased 1 point from last month but decreased 8 points from April 2005.

Prices Paid Index Up 1 Point

The April Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates is 147 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 1 point from March and 7 points above April 2005. Higher prices in April for field crop seeds, hay & forages, feeder cattle, legume and grass seed and feed grains more than offset lower prices for feeder pigs, milk cows, insecticides, diesel fuel and trucks.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	April 2005	March 2006	April 2006 ¹	April 2005	March 2006	April 2006 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	6.11	5.74	5.64	6.03	5.57	5.39
Rice, per cwt	7.29	8.06	8.20	6.98	8.10	8.28
Upland cotton, per pound	.402	.468	2/ .468	.414	.504	2/ .543
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	99.40	97.10	106.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ³	70.00	65.60	62.50	93.70	88.10	85.20
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	109.00	107.00	103.00	98.10	93.00	89.70
Cows, per cwt ⁴	54.00	49.50	46.00	57.00	49.50	48.70
Calves, per cwt	131.00	129.00	122.00	141.00	138.00	136.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.440	.370	.340
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.474	.670	.512
Milk, all, per cwt ⁵	n/a	n/a	n/a	15.20	12.60	12.10

¹ Mid-month.

² Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

³ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁴ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁵ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available

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